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Alaska Conference on Volunteerism 2004 Report

April 14, 15, 16, 2004

Hilton of Anchorage, Anchorage, AK

***Celebrating Volunteerism
&***

Moving Forward Together in Building Stronger Communities

The Alaska Conference on Volunteerism 2004, is a statewide training and celebration for all Alaskans who serve and volunteer, to further encourage, reward and train volunteers, and promotes the ethic of volunteerism in the State of Alaska. This is the third annual Alaska Conference on Volunteerism, focusing on three main areas: Community Building, Sustainability-Accountability and Member Development.

Volunteerism Conference Committee:

Mac Carter, Commissioner
Elaine Dahlgren, Commissioner
Sharon White Wheeler, Commissioner
Denise Morris, Commissioner
Mike Bridges, Commissioner
Dawn Grossmann, Commissioner
Elsa Sargento, Executive Director ASCSC
Nita Madsen-Greenwell, Associate Coordinator, ASCSC
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Midge Clouse, Local Government Specialist, VISTA
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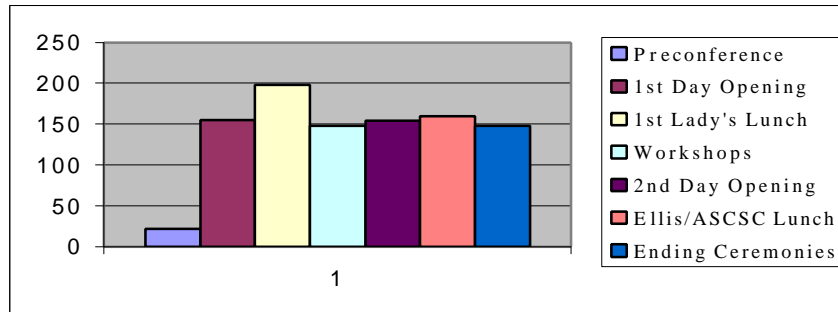
Dates:

April 14th, Preconference session from 8:00 – 4:00 p.m.
April 15th, Conference from 8:00- 5:00 p.m.
April 16th, Conference from 8:00-5:00 p.m.

Fees for conference:

Preconference Fee:	\$45
Preconference Certificate:	\$25
Conference-two days (includes lunches)	\$95
Late fee	\$120
Conference-one day only (include one lunch)	\$65
First Lady's Volunteer Award Luncheon	\$25
Ellis/ASCSC Award Luncheon	\$25

Attendance:



April 14th Preconference Session:

The Preconference Session was on Grant Writing. Midge Clouse, Local Government Specialist, led this workshop. The session gave information and guidelines for obtaining grant funding for projects and how the grant process works step by step.

April 15th, Opening Ceremonies:

The opening ceremonies started with a welcome from Elsa Sargento, Executive Director of ASCSC, followed by the presentation of colors by the Bartlett High School JROTC. Bob Charles, Commissioner from the ASCSC led the pledge of allegiance. Dr. William Greene, minister of the Eagle River Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Elaine Dahlgren, Acting Chair of the ASCSC Commission, introduced First Lady Nancy Murkowski, who then gave inspirational words to the attendees. The opening plenary speaker was Arline Oberst, who spoke on "The Heart and Soul of Volunteering."

April 15th, First Lady's Volunteer Award Luncheon:

Nancy Murkowski, the First Lady of the State of Alaska, hosted this luncheon. Ms. Murkowski presented trophies and words of appreciation to 10 outstanding volunteers, selected from over sixty nominations statewide for their selfless volunteer contributions. The luncheon was also highlighted by a presentation of colors by the Bartlett JROTC and the invocation by Sister Maureen.

April 15th, Workshops/Sessions:

Nine sessions were available for attendees throughout the afternoon. These workshops consisted of: The Basics of Raising Money, by Laurie Wolf, Vice President of the Foraker Group; Civic Engagement: The Spirit of the community through Civic Responsibility, by Michele Brown, President of United Way of Anchorage; Resume Writing: A Pictorial to Market Yourself, by Ruth Schoenleben, Vice President for Personnel & Training, Nine Star Enterprises; Universal Design, Part I, by Jason Wheeler, Sr. Training Association for the National Service Inclusion Project; The Art of Managing Volunteers by Leeann Reicks, Guardian ad litem with Office of Public Advocacy, and Barb Jewell, Board Member of Anchorage Association for Volunteerism; Collaboration is Your Answer, by Lincoln Garrick, Programs Manager, Imaginarium; and Interviewing Skills: How to Make all Your Volunteer Experiences Work for You in the Job Market, by Phyllis Kaviarlook Employment and Vocational Counselor and Gwyne Montagna, Employment and Vocational Counselor from Department of Labor.

April 16th, Opening Ceremonies

The opening ceremonies started with a welcome from Elsa Sargento, Executive Director. East High School JROTC presented the Colors, as Mac Carter, Commissioner of ASCSC led the pledge of allegiance. Rev. Bob Buttane brought the invocation. Special guest speaker was Bill Noll, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Community and Economic Development, followed by Arline Oberst's words on Leadership.

April 16th, Morning Workshop Sessions:

Four workshops were available for the attendees during the morning. They were Strategic Planning: Effective Methods For Meeting Your Mission and Vision Through Long and Short Goals, led by Charles Parker, Director of Professional Services Group-Alaska Village Initiatives; Sustainability Beyond Funding, led by Audrey Armstrong, Alaska Native Medical Gift Shop and Midge Clouse, Local Government Specialist; Emergency Preparedness: Engaging Volunteers, What They Can Do To Assist in Time of Community Emergency, led by Steve Beardsley, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Special Needs AWARE with CARE program; and Volunteer Stipends and How They Work, led by Jim Kreatschman, Project Assistant for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Don Brandon, ADA Coordinator for the State of Alaska.

April 16th, Ellis and ASCSC Award Luncheon:

The luncheon started with the Ellis Award presentation. Denise Morris, Commissioner of ASCSC presented the Ellis Award to Arliss Sturgelewski. This award was given to Arliss as a special recognition for her many years of volunteer service in the public and private sectors. This award is given each year to an individual who is a public figure and who has given extraordinary service to their community and to the State of Alaska.

New this year is the ASCSC Awards given to outstanding members from each of the AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve Programs. Each program nominated an individual that exceeded in volunteer efforts and was a great asset to their program. It was an additional privilege to have Lt. Governor Loren Leman present the trophies and certificates to the awardees.

Please see Alaska Outstanding Volunteers 2004 for biographies of each awardee.

April 16th, Workshops:

During the afternoon sessions three workshops were available. They were: Homeland Security: Introducing the 2004 National Preparedness and Response AmeriCorps Team of Alaska, led by Heather Adams, Program Coordinator, Americorps Red Cross with Sara Voekler, Nicholas Gentry, Cathy Cook, Americorps Red Cross team; Faith Based Initiatives, led by Gail West, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's Alaska Faith-Based Liaison and Robert Buttane, Coordinator of Faith Based and Community Initiatives with the Department of Health and Social Services, State of Alaska.

April 16th, Closing Ceremonies

The Bridge Builders of Anchorage gave a special presentation. They each gave information about the goals and how to incorporate volunteers throughout our communities while celebrating diversity within the different cultures and building a community of friends. A performance was given by the Tongan and Filipino dancers. Attendees were invited to join in the dancing and many did. There were book signing opportunities by Arline Oberst and the winners of the silent auction were announced.

ALASKA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS AWARDED 2004

ELLIS AWARD

ARLISS STURGELEWSKI



The Ellis Award is in recognition and appreciation to a public figure for an extraordinary volunteer service to the State of Alaska. The recipient of this award this year is Arliss Sturgelewski. In her own words Arliss stated, "There are so many things to do, expand your horizons. Be involved in life!" Her own passion to serve ranges from Alaska universities to small businesses and numerous organizations. Her influence extends beyond more than 20 trustees and committee member roles to just casual mentorship, offering advice over the telephone. "I'm able to care about my passions to a greater community," she said, "I care a lot, so I do a lot."

ASCSC VOLUNTEER AWARDS



The Alaska State Community Service Commission Volunteer Awards were given to four individuals.

JENNIFER POTRATZ

RurAL Cap's awardee was Jennifer Potratz. In their nomination summary they stated, "During the past year Jennifer served her community as a full time volunteer, working to improve her community, serving as a role model for youth, and helping to find local solutions to environmental issues. Jennifer helped address local solid waste issues, provided environmental education to students and assisted with community events."

STEPHANIE WILSON



A Posthumous award was given in memory of Stephanie Wilson. Stephanie participated in RurAL CAP's Addressing Challenges through Intergenerational Cooperation (ARCTIC) AmeriCorps program for 2003-2004. During the year Stephanie served as a full time volunteer, working to improve her community, serving as a role model for youth, engaging elders and youth in activities together, and helping to find local solutions to local issues. Stephanie established an after school programs for Tazlina Village youth, provided literacy projects for Head Start students and assisted with community events. Stephanie was killed in a car accident on her way to work on November 21, 2003. Her endless energy, positive outlook, and beautiful smile will continue to motivate community members to volunteer and come together. The programs she began will continue in her honor.

BETSY SMITH

SAGA's awardee was Betsy Smith. Betsy has been the most valuable addition to the SERRC Adult Education Program this year. Betsy has served as an AmeriCorps volunteer/member and instructor for the Adult Education students. She is a wonderful role model for students as she demonstrates her own eagerness and willingness to learn every day. Betsy has worked closely with the YABAH students, as an instructor/facilitator, participating in many of their activities, including working with students on the construction site and participating in their field trips and workshops. Betsy is well liked and respected by the students. She has worked hard, and helped many of the students become successful in reaching their goals.

MARK AND SHIRLEY KIRCHEN



The Nine Star Enterprises, Inc. awarded a couple this year, Mark and Shirley Kirchen. Mark and Shirley Kirchen were tentatively accepted as Members for our AmeriCorps Literacy Project before anyone foresaw the fate of last year's projects. They went to Thailand to teach English as a foreign language and for the winter and spring. Upon their return to the United States, there were no openings for them in the AmeriCorps program. They packed up anyway and drove to Anchorage where they rolled up their sleeves to help people increase their literacy skills and find employment long before they actually became AmeriCorps Members. Their resumes speak for themselves—they are gifted, dedicated workers who care about their students and clients. Shirley speaks three languages and has a Master's Degree in Mental Health Nursing. Mark has a Master's Degree in Philosophy with certifications in business. They are both excellent teachers and motivators and add maturity, fun, and "age and stage" diversity to the AmeriCorps ranks at Nine Star Enterprises. We thank them for their energy and dedication

LEARN AND SERVE AWARD

ALIDA BUS



The Learn and Serve programs nominated several outstanding students. In review of the nominations, one did stand out from the rest. This student is Alida Bus. Alida is a senior, the President of the Interact Club at Juneau Douglas High School and has been an active senior since her freshman year. In October, the Glory Hole (a soup kitchen and homeless shelter) struggled to stay open all day and offer three meals to clients. Alida saw the need in the community and organized a pledge drive to raise funds and awareness about homelessness by having the Interact Club members sleep out in cardboard boxes on November 1st in exchange for money donations. The demonstration was successful with 20 members of the Club participating; newspaper coverage by the Juneau Empire, and a check for \$2,300 presented by Alida to the Glory Hole! Alida is also the secretary of the National Honor Society, a student representative on the JDHS Site Council for two years and has been on the Alaska State Championship Team for

National Ocean Sciences Council for two years and is on the Alaska State Championship Team for National Ocean Sciences Bowl, which will compete at the National Bowl in April. She has also coached a youth soccer team for Parks & Recreation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Arline Oberst, coauthor of "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer Soul" was the keynote speaker for the conference. Ms. Oberst spoke on the first day during the opening session on the Heart and Soul of Volunteerism. On the second day of the conference, Ms. Oberst addressed the topic of Leadership while referring to stories of volunteerism from the book, "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer Soul." She brought with her 100 copies of the book, and autographed them for attendees throughout the two days. Ms. Oberst stated, "The Alaskan hospitality far exceeds any other place I've ever been."

SPECIAL CONFERENCE EVENTS

The Bridge Builders of Anchorage presented an informative hour, giving attendees insights to what Bridge Builders were all about, how they were formed, what their goals are. They incorporated ideas on how to work with volunteers from diverse cultures, how to celebrate and respect their differences, and become community friends.

The Tongan Group performed dances for all participants. Princess Finau from the Tongan Group performed the first dance. The Filipiniana Dance Group performed the Tinikling (Bamboo Dance) and invited all attendees to join in.

The Silent Auction was one of the best fund raising events throughout the conference. The winners were announced at the closing ceremony. Mac Carter, Commissioner of ASCSC directed the auction and was assisted by Dawn Grossmann, Commissioner of ASCSC and Nita Greenwell-Madsen, ASCSC staff. The Silent Auction grand total was \$760.00.

Door Prizes were awarded throughout the two-day conference. Mac Carter, Commissioner of ASCSC, announced the winners, after having an attendee from the audience pick the lucky winner. Many participants, to their delight, went away with a hat, shirt, game, and other fun prizes.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The Alaska Conference on Volunteerism would not have been such a great success if it were not for the generous support of the following sponsors and donors.

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SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS

Alaska Native Heritage Center	Alyeska Pipeline	Alaska Railroad Anchorage
International Hostel	Mike Bridges	Friends of Alaska Library
Dawn Grossmann	Mac Carter	Chery White
Denise Morris	Trade & Development, SOA	RurAL CAP

LOOKING AHEAD

The Alaska Volunteer Conference Planning Committee has already started looking ahead for next year's conference. The conference is tentatively set for March 30, 31, 2005. Get involved and help make next year's conference better than ever.